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Imagery analysis report

Soviet Field Hospitals in Afghanistan (S)

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SOVIET FIELD HOSPITALS IN AFGHANISTAN (S)

1. (S/D) This report discusses the Soviet field hospital complexes observed in Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion in December 1979. Information in this report was derived from imagery acquired through [REDACTED]

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2. (S/D) Soviet field hospitals have been identified at the following airfields and major Soviet deployment areas in Afghanistan (Figure 1):

Pol-E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area ([REDACTED])
 Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield ([REDACTED])
 Kandahar (Qandahar) Soviet Motorized Rifle Regiment Bivouac ([REDACTED])
 Shindand Airfield ([REDACTED])
 Kabul Airfield International ([REDACTED])
 Kabul Deployment Area Northwest ([REDACTED])
 Jalalabad Search Area ([REDACTED])

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3. (S/D) The Soviet field hospitals in Afghanistan use two basic types of medical tents. The USB-56 unified medical temporary tent is approximately [REDACTED] and has a capacity of 20 beds (40 personnel). This type of medical tent is heated by two stoves with stovepipes extending through the roof on either end. Interlocking-type vestibules permit the joining of this tent to other USB-56 tents or to the UST-56 medical tent to form various configurations as situations dictate. The UST-56 unified medical-technical tent is approximately [REDACTED] and can hold five or six beds (ten to 12 personnel). The UST-56 may be attached by vestibules or air locks to other standard medical tents.¹

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4. (S/D) A combination of one UST-56 tent with two USB-56 tents has been observed at all of the field hospitals in Afghanistan. Although the exact function of this tent configuration cannot be determined, the UST-56 tent is probably used as an operating room with the two larger USB-56 tents probably being used as pre- and post-operation wards (Figure 2).

5. (S/D) The field hospital at Pol-E Khomri was first observed on imagery of [REDACTED] in the northeast portion of the installation. Elements contained in this hospital included two probable operating room areas, five pairs of interlocking USB-56 and UST-56 tents, 18 single USB-56 tents, and 25 single UST-56 tents.

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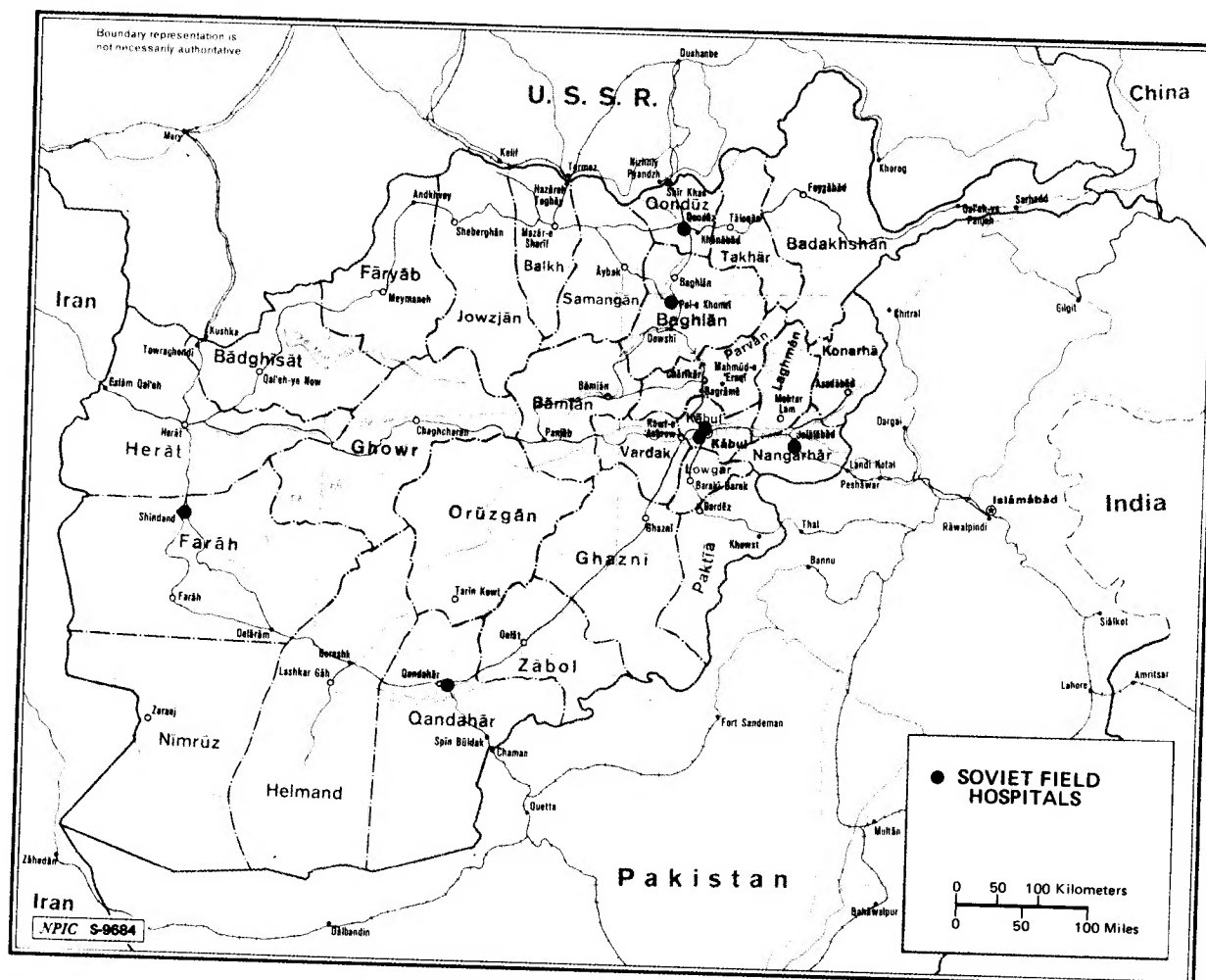
6. (S/D) In early March, this hospital was relocated toward the center of the installation. By [REDACTED] the probable operating room areas had been increased to three. Three pairs of USB-56 and UST-56 interlocking tents, 20 single UST-56 tents, and 13 single USB-56 tents were also observed.

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7. (S/D) An analysis of imagery of [REDACTED] indicated a substantial decrease in the capability of this field hospital. The tents were no longer arranged in the probable operating room configuration. However, four pairs of interlocking USB-56 and UST-56 tents, 27 single UST-56 tents, and seven single USB-56 tents were present.

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8. (S/D) Pol-E Khomri is 75 nautical miles (nm) south of the Soviet border and 90 nm north of Kabul. This area is the primary Soviet POL and logistical storage area in Afghanistan. Soviet units located here include a motorized rifle regiment (MRR), a motor transport regiment, a command post, and three small support units.

SECRET**FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SOVIET FIELD HOSPITALS, AFGHANISTAN**

9. (S/D) The field hospital at Kunduz Airfield was first observed on [] in the northeast portion of the deployment area. This hospital initially contained six single USB-56 tents, six single UST-56 medical tents, and one probable operating room area. The hospital was relocated toward the center of the deployment area by [] and currently contains 22 single USB-56 tents, eight single UST-56 tents, two pairs of interlocking USB-56 and UST-56 tents, and one probable operating room area.

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10. (S/D) Kunduz Airfield is approximately 35 nm south of the Soviet border and 128 nm north of Kabul. Soviet combat units located here include an MRR, a signal battalion, a reconnaissance battalion, a chemical defense battalion, a command post, major elements of an airborne regiment, an airborne howitzer battalion, and an anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) regiment.

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11. (S/D) The field hospital at Kandahar remains unchanged since its identification on []. This hospital contains 12 large USB-56 single tents, two small UST-56 single tents, and one probable operating room area.

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12. (S/D) This deployment area is in southern Afghanistan, approximately 60 nm north of the Pakistan border. Soviet ground units deployed in this area include an MRR, two airborne battalions, a signal battalion, and elements of an SA-8 air defense regiment.

13. (S/D) The field hospital at Shindand Airfield has been observed since [] This hospital facility consists of eight single USB-56 tents, seven single UST-56 medical tents, and one probable operating room area.

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14. (S/D) Shindand is in western Afghanistan, approximately 125 nm south of the Soviet border, and probably serves as the headquarters for Soviet ground operations in western Afghanistan. The Soviet ground combat units located here include an MRR, an artillery regiment, a tank regiment, an airborne battalion, a nondivisional multiple-rocket launcher (MRL) regiment, and elements of an SA-8 air defense regiment.

15. (S/D) The hospital at Kabul Airfield International was identified on [] This hospital contains one probable operating room area, two sets of interlocking USB-56 and UST-56 tents, eight single USB-56 tents, and six single UST-56 tents (Figure 3).

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16. (S/D) This hospital is at the west end of the airfield in the airborne regiment bivouac area. An airborne regiment and an ASU-85 airborne assault gun battalion are in this area.

17. (S/D) The hospital at Kabul Deployment Area Northwest was initially observed on [] and appeared to contain the most elaborate probable operating room facilities in Afghanistan. At least three probable operating room areas are at this hospital compound. Additionally, four sets of interlocking USB-56 and UST-56 tents, one interlocking USB-56 tent set, 16 single USB-56 tents, and one UST-56 interlocking tent set are in the hospital area.

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18. (S/D) This deployment area is on the northwest edge of Kabul, and the area contains a command post, a signal battalion, a motorized rifle battalion, an artillery regiment, an MRL battalion, and divisional support units.

19. (S/D) A field hospital was identified at the Jalalabad Search Area on imagery of [] The hospital bivouac contained one probable operating room area, five single USB-56 medical tents, and two single UST-56 medical tents.

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20. (S/D) This deployment area was in eastern Afghanistan at the mouth of the Komar Valley and 4 nm south of Jalalabad. Soviet units observed included an MRR, an airborne battalion, and a probable nondivisional communications unit.

21. (S/D) On [] the hospital was observed being disassembled and it had been removed from the area by [] the ground force units deployed there were no longer present.

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22. (S/D) All of the field hospitals observed in Afghanistan have an emergency vehicle parking area within the hospital bivouac (Figure 3). Although no designated helicopter landing areas directly associated with any of the hospitals have been observed, sufficient clear ground is available at each location to accommodate aeromedical delivery and evacuation.

DOCUMENT

1. Hq Dept of Army. TB: 381-5-17, Technical Bulletin, *Foreign Materiel Catalogue (FOMCAT)*, Gen Eqmt, Class. 8340: Tents, Vol 17, 15 Nov 77 (UNCLASSIFIED)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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